

# Wabash Plain Dealer

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**WEDNESDAY,**  
FEBRUARY 3, 2021

\$3

Shining light on Wabash County since 1859.

Tomorrow's weather **41** | **24** 



**Pulse**  
of Wabash

## Seeking sports stringers

Do you have a passion for writing, photography and local sports? The Wabash Plain Dealer is now accepting applications for paid stringers for the upcoming winter sports season. To apply, email your writing and photography clips, cover letter, resume and list of references to [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).

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To reduce risks to our employees and community, the Wabash Plain Dealer is closed to the public until further notice. Payments may be mailed to Wabash Plain Dealer, P.O. Box 309, Marion, IN 46952, or called in. For news, call 260-225-4662 or email [news@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:news@wabashplaindealer.com). For advertising, call 260-225-4947 or email [tcampbell@pmginmi.com](mailto:tcampbell@pmginmi.com). For circulation and customer support, call 260-563-2131. The Wabash Plain Dealer is committed to providing the best product to its customers and appreciates the support during this time. For more local news content, please visit [wabashplaindealer.com](http://wabashplaindealer.com) where you will find all of the news that could not fit into today's edition. Get your news faster by activating your online account which is included in your print subscription rates. Our stories appear online in an easy-to-read format as they are completed. Thank you for your support through this pandemic.

## BMV announces two-hour closure Thursday, Feb. 4

All Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicle (BMV) branches will be closed from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, "to engage in planned programming intended to foster a diverse, highly-skilled, and

See **PULSE**, page A10

## Inside

Classified, A4 Sports, A9  
Comics, A6 Viewpoint, A7  
Obituaries, A3 Weather, A2



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# Promoting 'Literacy for Companionship'



Photos by Rob Burgess / Plain Dealer

Manager Doug Bogert talks to some of the dogs at the Wabash County Animal Shelter.

## Wabash County Animal Shelter partnership looks to pair emerging readers with dogs, cats

By **ROB BURGESS**  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

A new partnership hopes to serve as a unique opportunity for emerging readers in search of a listening ear, with animals in search of a home.

On Jan. 26, Wabash County Animal Shelter manager Doug Bogert said they were joining forces with Literacy for Companionship, a Fort Wayne-based group founded in 2017 by Angela Ihrie.

"Her passion for reading and love of animals planted the idea for the organization, creating a judgment-free environment for children and animals," stated the group.

Bogert said the program "gives children an environment to practice their reading skills and build their confidence while showing compassion towards animals."

"It enables children and animals to come together providing each with the companionship that both desire," said Bogert.

Bogert said children will mainly read to cats, but that if dogs are available to read to, children will have that as an option, as well.

"Who knows what we'll have by then? It changes every day," said Bogert. "Maybe we'll find a match where the kid says, 'Dad, I really like this dog.' 'You never really liked dogs.' 'Let's take it home.' The same with the cats."

Bogert said they hoped to bring people to the shelter who may not have been there in the past, while practicing an important skill.

"Reading is good for the kids. Reading out loud is also good," said Bogert. "It gives them a little bit of confidence to do that sort of thing. So I think it's a really great thing. I'm hoping they go home and read to their turtle or their fish or maybe their dog or cat or something and just sparks the love of reading to them. That's kind of what we're looking for and hoping for."

See **LITERACY**, page A10

# Help Wabash County 'Focus on the Future'

Series of in-person Imagine One 85 workshops rescheduled for early March

By **ROB BURGESS**  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Communities around Wabash County are in the beginning stages of creating a comprehensive plan, and your chance to participate will continue early next month.

Originally planned for Feb-

ruary, a series of in-person Imagine One 85 Focus on the Future sessions have been slated for early March by the Community Foundation of Wabash County (CFWC) and Grow Wabash County.

At the third virtual session in December, CFWC president Brian Howenstine said so far the initiative had "been a fantastic process."

"Every voice counts. That's the most important thing we want to tell everybody," said Howenstine.

See **WORKSHOPS**, page A10



Three children at a time will be paired with cats, and one with a dog.

# Public input drives improvement at local lakes

Army Corps asks public to provide comments by Feb. 26 to develop master plan for Roush, Salamonie, Mississinewa lakes

By **ANDREW MACIEJEWSKI**  
Chronicle-Tribune Editor

A local veteran who has fished at Mississinewa and Salamonie lakes his entire life provided comments that could bring about much-needed improvements to reservoirs in the area.

Charles Sexton asked federal officials to fix the

Lost Bridge East boat ramp at Salamonie Lake and look into making the facilities at local reservoirs more accessible to handicapped individuals. He also suggested that the properties look into keeping lake levels higher during the "good fishing" periods in fall since the reservoirs are drained during the winter for flood prevention purposes.

Representatives with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) said his comments were exactly the kind of input they are hoping to receive as federal officials prepare to issue an updated master plan for the area.

Sexton participated in

See **RESERVOIRS**, page A10

# Amboy woman dies in a single-vehicle crash

The vehicle flipped, coming to rest on its top Friday afternoon

By **ROB BURGESS**  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

A single-vehicle crash Friday afternoon left one woman dead.

At approximately 12:56 p.m., officers from the Indiana State Police (ISP) responded to the 6400 block of West Wabash County Road 1100 South, according to ISP Peru Post public information officer Sgt. Tony Slocum on Friday.

Slocum said the preliminary crash investigation by ISP Senior Trooper A.J. Coffey revealed that Kaitlyn Byrum, 21, of Amboy, was driving a 2008 Chevrolet Malibu eastbound on Wabash County

See **CRASH**, page A10

# Locals age 65 and older now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine

ISDH: Federal gov. now sending 13K additional doses per week

By **ROB BURGESS**  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

After several delays, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) announced Monday that Hoosiers ages 65 and older are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Nearly 96,000 Hoosiers ages 65 to 69 had scheduled appointments to receive their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine as of 5 p.m. Monday, the first day of their eligibility.

A total of nearly 103,000 first-dose appointments for all eligible age groups were scheduled on Monday. Since Indiana began offering vaccines in late December, more than 1.3 million first- and

See **VACCINE**, page A8

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# Wabash Marketplace announces First Friday details

## The February theme is ‘Searching For Love’

### STAFF REPORT

Organized by Wabash Marketplace, First Friday takes place from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 5 in downtown Wabash, according to executive director Andrea Zwiebel.

This free event features downtown shopping, food, live music and kids’ activities. “Keep your eyes peeled for hidden hearts” in downtown this First Friday, because February’s theme is “Searching For Love,” said Zwiebel.

“Featuring a scavenger hunt, many businesses in downtown will have a heart with a code word hidden for you to find,” said Zwiebel. “Once found, write down the word on your scavenger hunt form. After finding all the code words, turn the form into Modoc’s Market or Visit Wabash County for a chance to win a Valentine’s Day-themed gift basket provided by Wabash Marketplace. Many shops will feature Valentine’s specials and discounts.”

There will be live music with Steve Michaels in the Green Hat Lounge.

The Wabash County Museum will be open until 6 p.m. There will be Museum on the Go take-home craft kits for the kids and free copies of vintage love letters.

Trolley No. 85 will be running. Catch a ride at Veteran’s Plaza, Eagles Theatre, The Depot, YMCA or the Charley Creek Inn Miami



February’s theme is “Searching For Love.”

Entrance. Zwiebel said she wanted to remind attendees that Wabash County is “orange” according to the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH).

“Face coverings and social distancing are required in downtown,” said Zwiebel.

Wabash Marketplace is still accepting sponsorships for 2021. For more information, call 260-563-0975.

Provided photo

# ‘Eagle Watch’ during three Saturdays at Salamonie

Events will take place Feb. 13, 20 and 27

### STAFF REPORT

This year, “Eagle Watch” will be offered on three Saturdays, Feb. 13, 20, and 27, through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR’s) Upper Wabash Interpretive Services (UWIS), according to interpretive naturalist Teresa Rody.

Rody said registrants must call and speak to UWIS staff to register and choose a meeting date and time when they will meet at Salamonie Interpretive and Nature Center, 3691 S. New Holland Road, Andrews.

“We’re doing things a bit differently this year while following CDC guidelines, meaning not all caravans will end at the roost as in previous years,” said Rody.

Rody said upon arrival, participants will remain in their vehicles unless a restroom is needed.

“Participants, if possible, should have a cell phone to access our call-in platform for the day’s audio program,” said Rody. “Be mindful of Indiana state law concerning driving and hand-held cellular devices. Participants should dress for the weather; if available, bring binoculars, cameras and spotting scopes. Shared visual aids will also be

available onsite. Be sure to have plenty of fuel in your gas tank.”

Rody said there will be some walking on a paved road, and those who need accessible parking should request it upon registration.

“Participants will be able to warm up with a warm drink and snack items available for freewill donation at the roost site through Friends of Upper Wabash Interpretive Services,” said Rody.

Rody said “for the safety of all citizens,” Frances Slocum Road between Indiana 124 and Miami County Road 550 East will be closed for this event.

For more information or to register, call 260-468-2127.

### 5-Day Weather Summary

<b>Wednesday</b> Partly Cloudy 34 / 23	<b>Thursday</b> Scattered Rain 41 / 24	<b>Friday</b> Mostly Cloudy 29 / 17	<b>Saturday</b> Mostly Cloudy 28 / 5	<b>Sunday</b> Mostly Cloudy 12 / -2

#### Sun and Moon

Today's sunset ..... 6:06 p.m.  
Tomorrow's sunrise ..... 7:47 a.m.

Last 2/4	New 2/11	First 2/19	Full 2/27

#### Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 34°, humidity of 72%. West wind 3 to 7 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 23°. South southeast wind 3 to 10 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 15°.

## VFW Post No. 286 fish fry Friday

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 286 has planned a fish fry from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday at 3678 W. Old 24, according to Dan Ford.

For more information, call 260-563-2463. The menu will include hand beer-battered

fish, baked beans, coleslaw and hush puppies.

The cost is \$9 per person. The event is open to the public. Carry-out will be available.

“Current COVID-19 restrictions will be observed,” said Ford.

## Frances Slocum Chapter of the DAR holds January meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 9 at the Grandstaff-Hentgen Activity Room

### STAFF REPORT

The monthly meeting of the Frances Slocum Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) took place on Tuesday, Jan. 12 at the Grandstaff-Hentgen Activity Room, according to regent Barbara Amiss.

Special guests were Phyllis Little and Richard Baker.

The meeting opened with the DAR ritual, followed by devotions by Tamra Wise.

The January President General’s message from Denise Doring VanBuren was shared by Joyce Joy.

“Never have I so joyously welcomed a new year,” said Joy. “I just know that 2021 is going to be a great one for our National Society, thanks to your enduring commitment to our vibrant mission. We together amassed millions of hours of community service, welcomed thousands of new members, raised funds to restore our National Landmark, and honored the memory of our patriot ancestors as engaged, active citizens.”

The National Defender report given by Kie Kirk celebrated National Blood

Donor Month in January. About 38 percent of the U.S. population can donate blood but only about 10 percent do. Blood donations typically decline in the winter months at the same time as seasonal illnesses create increased demand for blood and platelets. Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood, and it takes 13,000 blood donations every day to maintain an adequate blood supply.

Committee Minutes were on Conservation: Symbols of America, the rose, American Flag, American Indian, Constitution Minute and Women’s Issues: Caring for Caregivers.

Correspondence was a thank you letter from Chemawa Indian School, Salem, Oregon for box tops to help purchase materials for the recreation department programs and activities. The chapter recognized deceased member, Dora Marie Denniston, a member of the chapter for 47 years, joining in 1973. She served as Chapter Regent in 1999.

Service to America volunteer hours honored Deborah West of West Chester, Ohio for wildlife rehabilitation of 5,760 hours in 2020. West is certified in Ohio to take in small mammals which include squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits and groundhogs for rehabilitation back into the wild. For as long as she

can remember I’ve been an animal lover, taking in strays and injured animals.

The January program was on Junior DAR Membership presented by Kathie Stephens, state co-chair for sales. Junior members are chapter members aged 18 through 35, until their 36th birthday. Junior members enjoy full privileges and rights of membership and are eligible for any chapter, state or national office. Junior DAR Membership Committee also sponsors the Helen Pouch Memorial Fund Classroom Grant Award Program; two \$500 grants are available per state. The goal of this grant program is to impact as many children in as many communities as possible. Each chapter is limited to sponsoring just one application per year which is due March 1.

The next meeting of the Frances Slocum Chapter will be Tuesday, Feb. 9 at Grandstaff-Hentgen Activity Room, 1241 Manchester Ave.

Prospective members and guests are always welcome to attend. DAR membership is open to any woman 18 years of age, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. Those having questions about their family history lineage information may visit [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org) or call Linda Thompson at 260-563-4661 or Amiss at 260-982-4376.

## Indiana Senate backs bill to ban renaming of Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A proposal to ban Indianapolis and more than 100 other Indiana cities from ever changing their names has been approved by the state Senate.

Republican Sen. Jack Sandidin of Indianapolis said he sponsored the bill to prevent any movement toward renaming Indianapolis because it includes the word Indian following Native

American protests that have led to the renaming of professional sports teams.

Senators voted 36-11 largely along party lines Tuesday to advance the proposal to the House for consideration. The bill would prohibit the four cities named in the state Constitution – Indianapolis, Clarksville, Vincennes and Evansville – and some 140 cities referenced in state

laws from name changes.

The bill comes even though no efforts have emerged seeking to change the name of Indiana or Indianapolis.

Democratic Sen. Greg Taylor of Indianapolis opposed the bill, saying he thought it was a waste of the Legislature’s time by prohibiting something that “never, ever would have happened.”

## PLAY TRIVIA AND WIN!

WE ARE GIVING AWAY \$1,000 in our new Publication TRIVIA Game

Trivia begins on January 13, 2021 and concludes on February 20, 2021. Look for the Trivia question on page A2 of the Wabash Plain Dealer every Wednesday and Saturday and fill in the correct answer on the entry form. Mail your entry forms each week, or save them up and mail them all at one time, to be included in the drawing. Your envelope must be post marked by February 18 to be accepted. Drawing occurs on February 23, 2021.

**First Prize \$500 Second Prize \$250 Third Prize \$150 Fourth Prize \$50 Fifth Prize \$50**

4. What is the smallest ocean in the world?

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRY FORM

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

No purchase necessary. Entry form must be completely filled out to qualify. Only one entry per household per week is permitted. All decisions of the newspaper are final. Employees and their immediate family members of the newspaper are not eligible to win.

Drawing of all eligible entries will be drawn on February 23, 2021, picking first, second, third, fourth and fifth place winners; and published in the newspaper on February 27, 2021. Must be 18 years or older.

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## Wabash Plain Dealer

VOL. 163 NO. 10

99 W. Canal St., Wabash, Ind. 46992

### Circulation

- Customer Service 260-563-2131
- Telephone Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Delivery: Your newspaper is delivered by the USPS and will arrive with your daily mail.
- Missed your paper? We sincerely hope not, but if you did please contact your local post office. To verify that your account is active, call us at 260-563-2131.
- Home delivery subscription rates: 13 weeks, \$59.50. EZ-Pay, monthly, \$18.65.
- Other payment options available

by calling Subscriber Services at 260-563-2131.

POSTMASTER: Send address change to Wabash Plain Dealer, 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

- There will be a \$10 early termination fee to cancel an existing subscription prior to expiration date.

### Advertising

- 260-563-2131 (after hours, press 5 for advertising)
- Classified: classifieds@wabashplainedeal.com
- Legals: legals@wabashplainedeal.com
- Retail: cbrown@wabashplainedeal.com

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USPS 663-940  
Wabash Plain Dealer  
established September 1858

Published Wednesdays and Saturdays (except on postal holidays) by Paxton Media Group, by the Wabash Plain Dealer, 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992. Periodical postage paid at Wabash, Ind.

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# Obituaries

## When your chance for a COVID-19 shot comes, don't worry about the numbers

By **ARTHUR ALLEN**  
and **LIZ SZABO**  
Kaiser Health News (TNS)

When getting vaccinated against COVID-19, there's no sense being picky. You should take the first authorized vaccine that's offered, experts say.

The newest COVID-19 vaccine on the horizon, from Johnson & Johnson, is probably a little less effective at preventing sickness than the two shots already being administered around the United States, from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna. On Friday, Johnson & Johnson announced that, in a 45,000-person trial, its vaccine was about 66 percent effective at preventing moderate to severe COVID-19 illness. No one who received the vaccine was hospitalized with or died of the disease, according to the company, which said it expected to seek Food and Drug Administration authorization as early as this week. If the agency authorizes use of the vaccine, millions of doses could be shipped out of J&J's warehouses beginning in late February.

The J&J vaccine is similar to the shots from Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech but uses a different strategy for transporting genetic code into human cells to stimulate immunity to the disease. The Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines were found in trials last fall to be 94 percent effective against confirmed COVID-19. They also prevented nearly all severe cases.

But the difference in those efficacy numbers may be deceptive. The vaccines were tested in different locations and at different phases of the pandemic. And J&J gave subjects in its trial only one dose of the vaccine, while Moderna and Pfizer have two-dose schedules, separated by 28 and 21 days, respectively. The bottom line, however, is that all three do a good job at preventing serious COVID-19.

"It's a bit like, do you want a Lamborghini or a Chevy to get to work?" said Dr. Gregory Poland, director of the Mayo Clinic's Vaccine Research Group. "Ultimately, I just need to get to work. If a Chevy is available, sign me up."

So while expert panels may debate in the future about which vaccine is best for whom, "from a personal and public health perspective, the best advice for now is to get whatever you can as soon as you can get it, because the sooner we all get vaccinated the better off we all are," said Dr. Norman Hearst, a family doctor and epidemiologist at the University of California-San Francisco.

Here are five reasons experts say you should take the J&J shot – assuming the FDA authorizes it – if it's the one that's offered to you first:

**1. All three vaccines protect against hospitalization and death.**

Of the 10 cases of severe disease in the Pfizer trial, nine received a placebo, or



Sandra Lindsay, a nurse at Long Island Jewish Medical Center, is inoculated with the COVID-19 vaccine by Dr. Michelle Chester, at Long Island Jewish Medical Center, on Dec. 14 in the Queens borough of New York.

fake vaccine, and none of the 30 severe cases in the Moderna trial occurred in people who got the true vaccine. Johnson & Johnson did not release specific numbers but said none of the vaccinated patients were hospitalized or died. "The real goal is to keep people out of the hospital and the ICU and the morgue," said Dr. Paul Offit, director of the Vaccine Education Center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. "This vaccine will do that well."

**2. The efficacy levels could be a case of apples and oranges.**

The data that Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech presented to the FDA for their vaccines came from large clinical trials that took place over the summer and early fall in the United States. At the time, none of the new variants of COVID-19 – some of which may be better at evading the immune responses produced by vaccines – were circulating here. In contrast, the J&J trial began in September and was put into the arms of people in South America, South Africa and the United States.

Newly widespread variants in Brazil and South Africa appear somewhat better at evading the vaccine's defenses, and it's possible a new variant in California – where many J&J volunteers were enrolled – may also have that trait. The J&J vaccine was 72 percent effective against moderate to severe COVID-19 in the U.S. part of the trial, compared with 57 percent in South Africa, where a more contagious mutant virus is the dominant strain. Another vaccine, made by the Maryland company Novavax, had 90 percent efficacy in a large British trial, but only about 50 percent in South Africa. The Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines might not have gotten the same sparkling results had they been tested more recently – or in South Africa.

"This vaccine was tested in the pandemic here and now," said Dr. Dan Barouch, a Harvard Medical School professor whose lab at the Center for Virology and Vaccine Research at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston developed the J&J

vaccine. "The pandemic is a much more complex pandemic than it was several months ago."

Some of that difference in performance also could be attributable to different patient populations or disease conditions, and not just the mutant virus. A large percentage of South Africans carry the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV. Chinese vaccines have performed wildly differently in countries where they were tested in recent months.

"We don't know which vaccines are the Lamborghinis," Poland said, "because these aren't true head-to-head comparisons."

**3. Speed is of the essence.**

To stop the spread of COVID-19, the mutation of the virus that causes it and the continued pummeling of the economy, we all need to be vaccinated as quickly as possible. The inadequate supply of vaccines has been felt acutely.

Dr. Virginia Banks' 103-year-old mother is one of the few living Americans who were around for the country's last great pandemic – the 1918 influenza – yet she's been unable to get a COVID-19 vaccination, said Banks, a physician with Northeast Ohio Infectious Disease Associates in Youngstown.

Patients can't be picky about which vaccine they accept, Banks said. People "need to get vaccinated with the vaccines out today so we can get closer to herd immunity" to slow the spread of the virus.

Banks has worked hard to promote COVID-19 vaccines to skeptical minority communities, frequently appearing on local TV news and making at least two presentations by Zoom each week. Blacks to date have been vaccinated against covid at much lower rates than whites.

"There's a downside to waiting," said Dr. William Schaffner, a professor of preventive medicine and health policy at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Delaying vaccination carries serious risks, given that more than 3,800 Americans have been dying every day of COVID-19.

**4. The J&J vaccine appears to have some real advantages.**

First, it seems to cause fewer serious side effects like the fever and malaise suffered by some Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccine recipients. High fever and dehydration are particular concerns in fragile elderly people who "have one foot on the banana peel," said Dr. Kathryn Edwards, scientific director of the Vanderbilt Vaccine Research Program. The J&J vaccine "may be a better vaccine for the infirm."

Many people may also prefer the J&J shot because "it's one and done," Schaffner said. Easier for administrators too: just one appointment to schedule.

**5. The J&J vaccine is much easier to ship, store and administer.**

While the Johnson & Johnson vaccine can be stored in regular refrigerators, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine must be kept long-term in "ultra-cold" freezers at temperatures between minus 112 degrees and minus 76 degrees Fahrenheit, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Both the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines must be used or discarded within six hours after the vial is opened. Vials of the J&J vaccine can be stored in a refrigerator and restored for later use if doses remain. "Right now we have mass immunization clinics that are open but have no vaccine," said Offit. "Here you have a single-dose regime with easy storage and handling."

A person's address – not their personal preference – may determine which vaccine they receive, said E. John Wherry, director of the Institute for Immunology at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine. He pointed out that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a simpler choice for rural areas.

"A vaccine doesn't have to be 95 percent effective to be an incredible leap forward," said Wherry. "When we get to the point where we have choices about which vaccine to give, it will be a luxury to have to struggle with that question."

### Carole Jean Kreighbaum

Feb. 25, 1943 – Jan. 22, 2021

Carole Jean Kreighbaum, 77, of Avon, Indiana, passed away in her daughters' arms at 12:51 am, Friday, January 22, 2021, in Indianapolis, Indiana. She was born February 25, 1943, in Akron, Ohio, to Paul and Anna Mae (Edwards) Ternosky.

Carole was a graduate of Noble High School and a floral designer. Her ultimate joy was found with family, friends, and her beloved pets. She was a member of St. Bernard Catholic Church in Wabash.

She is survived by daughters, Debra (Karen L. Oliver) Raikes of Avon and JoAnna (Kurt) Holtschlag of Highlands Ranch, Colorado, Shellie (Thomas) Colvin of Fort Collins, Colorado, her son Jerry (Donald) Kreighbaum of Hobart, Indiana, her sister, Judie (Bruce) Ross of Friday Harbor, Washington and grandchildren, Declan Brian Oliver-Raikes and Gavin Steven Oliver-Raikes, Sophia Carole Holtschlag, Autumn Taylor, Rhyan Raikes, Corey Raikes, Malorie Kreighbaum, Casie Perez, Shelby Colvin, Talea Colvin, Dakota Colvin, and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, and sons Brian David Raikes, Craig Steven Raikes, and her sister, Barbara Ann Getz.



There will be a service at 10:00 am, Saturday, February 6, 2021, at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 188 W. Sinclair, Wabash, with Father Levi Nkwocha officiating. Burial will follow in Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash. The family will host a celebration of her life from 12 pm-3 pm. Remembrance speeches will be shared for Carole along with food and drinks at the Eagles Theatre ballroom, 106 W Market St., Wabash, Indiana 46992. We invite guests to attend all or any of the events planned. Guests may send flowers to Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash or donate to aspca.org.

Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

### James S. 'Jim' Corn

Services for James S. "Jim" Corn, 72, of Delphi, Indiana, were 2:00 pm, Saturday, January 30, 2020 at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash. Pastor Nord Zootman officiated.

Pallbearers were James A. Corn, Charles Corn, Cassandra Corn, Randy Corn, Doug Corn, and Matt Slaughter. Burial was in Center Grove Cemetery, Lincolnville, Indiana.

### Dorothy Marie Cripe (Purdy)

July 23, 1929 – Jan. 30, 2021

Dorothy Marie Cripe (Purdy) May, 91, was born July 23, 1929 to Harold and Ethel (Michel) Cripe. Dorothy passed away January 30, 2021.

She is survived by husband, Dan May; children JoJoyce (Donald) Wyatt, Dennis Purdy, Sharon (Randy) Pruitt, and Gary (Rosemary) Purdy; stepchildren are Jeff (Shirley) May, and Vickie (Terry)

Holmes; brother, Ernest Cripe; 19 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

There will be a private graveside at a later date with a public memorial celebration to follow in late spring or early summer.

The family of Dorothy Marie Cripe (Purdy) May has entrusted McKee Mortuary with final arrangements.

## A gloomy Groundhog Day: Punxsutawney Phil says more winter

By **SHAWN MARSH**  
and **BARRY REEGER**  
Associated Press

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. — There will be six more weeks of winter, Punxsutawney Phil predicted as he emerged from his burrow on a snowy Tuesday morning to perform his Groundhog Day duties.

Members of Phil's "inner circle" woke up the furry critter at 7:25 a.m. at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, to see whether he would see his shadow or not.

Shortly after this year's prediction was revealed, one of the members of the circle shared a message he said Phil had told him earlier in the day:

"After winter, you're looking forward to one of the most beautiful and brightest springs you've ever seen."

The spectacle that is Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney still went on, but because of the coronavirus pandemic, revelers weren't able to see Phil and celebrate in person: This year, it was all virtual.

After the inner circle delivered the news, they hung around to take selfies and photographs of themselves with Phil against the fresh blanket of snow. One hundred and fifty cardboard cutouts purchased by fans and featuring photos of them in groundhog gear or with their pets dotted the hillside.

## Buttigieg gets Senate nod to lead Transportation Department

By **JESSICA WEHRMAN**  
CQ-Roll Call (TNS)

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate voted 86-13 on Tuesday to confirm former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg to be secretary of transportation in the Biden administration.

Buttigieg, 39, a veteran who served as an intelligence officer for the Navy Reserves, will be among the first openly gay Cabinet secretaries in U.S. history and the first openly gay person to be confirmed by the Senate to hold a Cabinet-level position, according to the LGBTQ rights group the Human Rights Campaign.

"This confirmation breaks through a barrier that has

existed for too long; where LGBTQ identity served as an impediment to nomination or confirmation at the highest level of government," said HRC President Alphonso David. "Let this important moment for our movement serve as a reminder to every LGBTQ young person: you too can serve your country in any capacity you earn the qualifications to hold."

Despite the 13 votes against him, his journey to Senate confirmation proceeded smoothly. The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation approved him last week by a 21-3 vote, with both Committee Chairman Roger Wicker, R-Miss., and incom-

ing Chairman Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., praising him for his experience during his confirmation hearing.

On Tuesday, Cantwell praised him on the Senate floor.

"In my opinion, he's a young, energetic mayor who is going to help us usher in a new era of transportation," she said.

Still, Buttigieg is an anomaly and a lingering sign of partisan strife: Of the other secretaries of transportation dating back to the Carter administration, only Trump's nominee, Elaine Chao, received any opposing votes. Six senators voted against her in 2017. Chao is also the wife of Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Other DOT nominees were confirmed by unanimous votes or, in some cases, voice votes.

The 13 senators who opposed his confirmation were: Sens. Josh Hawley, R-Mo.; Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn.; Marco Rubio, R-Fla.; Tim Scott, R-S.C.; Richard C. Shelby, R-Ala.; Bill Cassidy, R-La.; Roger Marshall, R-Kan.; Rick Scott, R-Fla.; Ted Cruz, R-Texas; Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala.; Bill Hagerty, R-Tenn.; Tom Cotton, R-Ark.; and James Lankford, R-Okla.

Buttigieg will assume the Transportation secretary post as one of the more well-known of Biden's Cabinet picks, having gained visibility during his long-shot bid

for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020.

During that campaign, he had one of the more detailed infrastructure plans of the Democratic contenders. It would have spent \$1 trillion on infrastructure, including \$160 billion for transit. He was also one of the few 2020 presidential contenders to outright endorse an eventual shift from using the motor fuel taxes to pay for the Highway Trust Fund to a method based on the number of miles traveled by vehicles.

His one stumble during the confirmation process came during his hearing, when he signaled he'd be open to raising the gas tax to pay for highways; a spokesman later walked that back, saying a

gas tax increase was not on the table.

Still, Sen. Scott of Florida used Buttigieg's comments as a reason to vote against him, tweeting in part on Tuesday that Buttigieg "is willing to raise the gas tax on the American people to pay for the government's wasteful spending & and I can't support his policies that hurt American families & small businesses."

Buttigieg will have a full plate: Transit, airlines and other modes of transportation have struggled during the coronavirus pandemic, with ridership plummeting and employees at risk, and Congress faces an October deadline to reauthorize federal highway programs.





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# New mom not in the mood for husband’s entreaties

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a first-time mommy of a beautiful 2 1/2-month-old little boy. I should also mention that I’m 40 years old. My husband is constantly asking for sex. I mean, every day. I honestly do not feel like having it. I’m so worn out by the day-to-day chores of being a wife and motherhood that when the baby goes to sleep, I go to sleep immediately.

Dear Abby



My husband refuses to understand how exhausted I am, and his constantly asking for sex makes me want it even less. I try to reassure him that it’s not him, because he thinks he has done something wrong or that I’m not attracted to him anymore. But he also doesn’t help me out much around here. So, basically, I’m asking what can I do? – Touchy Subject In West Virginia

**DEAR TOUCHY:** You and your husband are overdue for a frank talk. Sit him down and explain EXACTLY what you need from him. Tell him you need his help so the entire burden of taking care of his home and his baby isn’t entirely on your shoulders. After you have finished doing that, point out that if he contributes to the household tasks and baby duties, it will take the pressure off you and make it more likely that you can relax and get in the mood for something more pleasant.

**DEAR ABBY:** My son is in an abusive marriage. He is verbally, mentally and emotionally abused by his wife constantly. She does everything she can to force him to leave. She tells him it is her house and she wants him to go. They bought the house together, and they both work and pay the bills. He won’t leave because he doesn’t want to leave his kids. Is there any kind of support for abused men? – Concerned Dad In N. Carolina

**DEAR DAD:** There certainly is, and I hope you will tell your son to reach out for it. No one should be harassed the way your son is being, because the effects can be not only devastating, but also long-lasting. The National Domestic Violence Hotline (thehotline.org; 1-800-799-7233) and Stop Abuse for Everyone (stopabuseforeveryone.org) serve male victims of abuse as well as female. Urge him to contact one or both of them.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have married into a family that celebrates birthdays of members who have died. They are not observing the passing, but doing full-fledged birthday events. This is a practice I have never before experienced, and most of these people I have never met. I don’t want to be disrespectful, but it seems really odd, especially since many of those people died years ago. It’s becoming difficult to do more than express my sympathy for their loss. Is this done by other families? – Bewildered In Florida

**DEAR BEWILDERED:** If there is anything I have learned in the course of writing this column, as well as my own journey through life, it is that individuals, families and cultures do not have identical ways of grieving or honoring their deceased loved ones. While it may seem unusual to you, this is the way they remember their loved ones.

Because this is your spouse’s family, talk with him about how to navigate this issue without causing hurt feelings. If you are uncomfortable participating in these celebrations, continue to be respectful, but attend fewer of them.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

1 Sunburn remedy

5 Toyota competitor

10 Intelligence

12 Where Leo is

13 Big name in trains

14 Winter sight

15 Small job

16 Psychic’s power

18 Scratch out a living

19 Change

21 Singer — Cara

25 Cruel king

29 Kitchen tool

30 Not give —

32 Cuba neighbor

33 Express doubts

34 Second-hand

37 Nail groomer

38 Microsurgery tool

40 Hive occupant

**DOWN**

1 Tune from an opera

2 Country in Asia

3 Cry from the sty

4 Compass pt.

5 In — signo vinces

6 Fat cat’s friend

7 Shaver’s woe

8 Carnegie or Evans

9 First-rate

10 Deli order

11 Husky’s vehicle

12 Full of pep

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

R	I	B		R	O	C		R	I	N	G
I	R	A		I	O	T	A		A	L	A
P	O	L	E	C	A	T	S		P	I	N
S	N	E	A	K	S		T	I	T	A	N
			S	I	T			C	O	D	Y
E	M	C	E	E		L	E	E	R		
L	A	O		R	I	O	T		S	U	R
F	I	L	M		L	I	C	K		M	I
			I	N	K	S			L	L	A
B	A	R	T		R	U	E				
I	D	A	H	O		A	D	V	E	R	B
F	L	O	G		O	R	I	G	I	N	A
O	G	R	E		P	O	N	E		I	R
P	E	N	S		S	O	I		D	E	W

2-3

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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

	6					2		3
4	1			3	9			7
	5			4				
7				8		9	1	
5								8
	8	6		7				4
				2			3	
3			8	5			9	1
8		5					7	

2/3

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION																	
1	7	3	4	8	5	2	9	6									
6	8	2	9	1	7	5	3	4									
5	4	9	2	3	6	1	7	8									
7	6	5	3	4	1	9	8	2									
3	1	8	7	2	9	6	4	5									
2	9	4	6	5	8	3	1	7									
8	5	6	1	9	4	7	2	3									
9	2	7	8	6	3	4	5	1									
4	3	1	5	7	2	8	6	9									

**JUMBLE**

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SABHR

LOFDO

SWERHD

PANEPH

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**THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME**

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Who likes what they're seeing?

TO FIND OUT IF THE KIDS LIKED THEIR ACT, THE SHADOW PUPPETEERS ASKED FOR ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: HUTCH CLOUT MONKEY FUMBLE  
Answer: When it came to TV episodes of the Brady family, there were a — BUNCH OF THEM

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS**

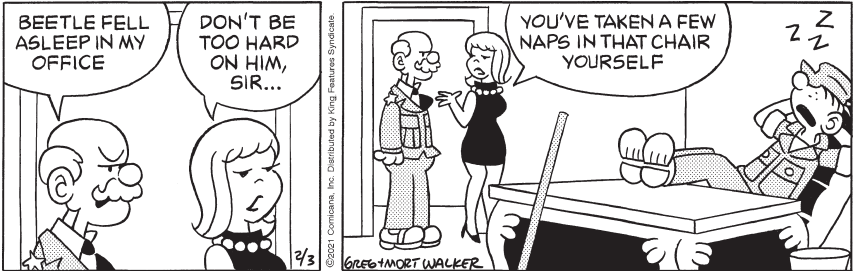
By Bil Keane

2-3

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“My nose is colder than my ears.”

BEETLE BAILEY



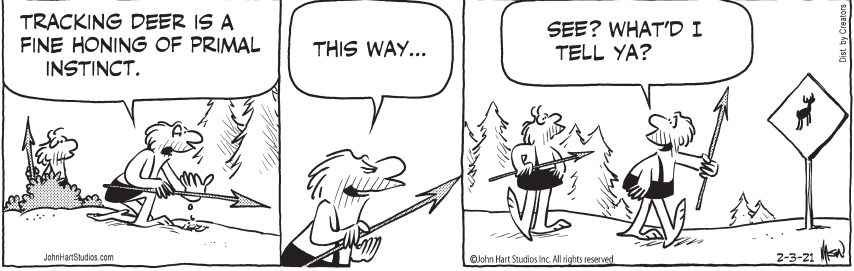
BLONDIE



HI & LOIS



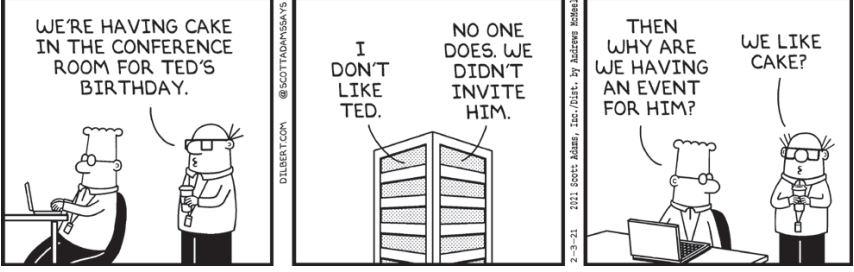
BC



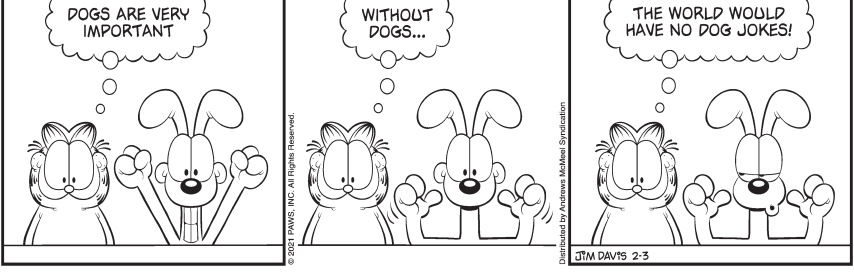
WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



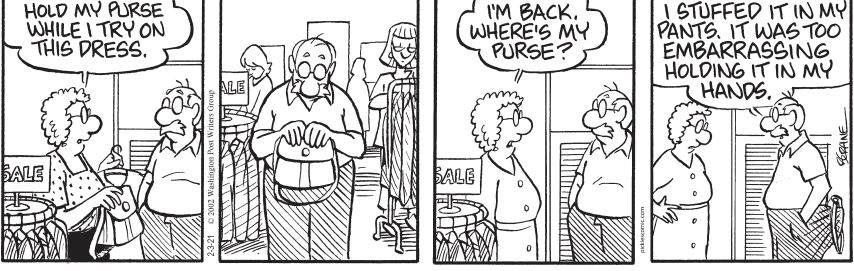
GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



## Christ the Redeemer died that mankind might live

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

**Q:** The Bible declares that God hates sin, so why has He tolerated it since the beginning of time? – H.S.

**A:** Christ died for one reason – because of God’s hatred of sin and His deep love for us that He would make a way for the human race to be delivered from His judgment and to know His everlasting forgiveness. This is the amazing grace of God. “This is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us” (1 John 4:10). How wonderful that Jesus purchased our redemption with His precious blood. Do not turn away from this blessed Savior.

Few ever ask why the world hates Christ and it’s hard to understand when Jesus proclaimed: “For God so loved

the world” (John 3:16). He indeed loves the world, yet the world hates God. Many people do not believe this, but the Bible states it as fact. Many people reject the God who created them and gave them life. They do not want to even think about Him and so God gives them up to their own futile thoughts (Romans 1).

The Gospel of John records these staggering words from Jesus: “[The world hated Me” (John 15:18). There can be no question that the Scriptures teach that the devil is the “god of this

Age,” the present evil world system, and that the carnal mind is against God. Those who feed the flesh cannot please God. This is why God in Christ was despised and rejected by the world.

Strange that God should love those who hate Him. Yet He did, and He does. This hatred of mankind toward God and God’s love toward the human race are fully displayed at the cross of Calvary, the glorious place where God reconciled the world to Himself and where Christ the Redeemer died that mankind might live.

**CELEBRITY CIPHER**

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“ Y R D A B O B A B F O V A K L V J O R M H I S  
R F O J Y R L M 12 S O L D M A V N . Y M L Y N ,  
‘ R F L B N A Y J O O N B A N A B A T O S A I  
A J O N L S ? ’ — N L G Y N W I Y D

Previous Solution: “I’m a typical Capricorn. I’m hardworking, loyal, sometimes stubborn, and I don’t believe in astrology.” — Jonah Peretti

TODAY’S CLUE: C s i e n b e x



# Opinion

## SPEAK UP

How to contact  
your legislators:

**U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.**  
B33 Russell Senate  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
1-202-224-5623  
http://young.senate.gov/  
contact

**U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.**  
B85 Russell Senate  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-4814  
http://braun.senate.gov/

**U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2**  
419 Cannon House  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-3915

**State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17**  
Indiana Senate  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9467  
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

**State Rep. David Wolkins, R-District 18**  
Indiana House  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9841  
h18@in.gov

To email any  
Indiana lawmaker,  
go to this website:  
www.in.gov/cgi-bin/  
legislative/contact/  
contact.pl

## LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

## DAILY SCRIPTURE

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

**Galatians 5:24**

# Our democracy requires a new Voting Rights Act

Voting is a right of citizenship and the opportunity to exercise it should be made easier, not more difficult.

This isn't an abstraction. It is our call to Congress, whose failure to renew the Voting Rights Act opened the floodgate to problematic state voting laws and procedures, to restore teeth to the law.

In opposition to Jim Crow politics, Congress passed the landmark Voting Rights Act in 1965, and for years lawmakers regularly renewed it with bipartisan support and with little debate or fanfare. States and local jurisdictions that had a history of voter discrimination were required to gain preclearance from the Department of Justice before they could impose changes in state voting law.

However, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the preclearance portion of the act in a case called Shelby vs. Holder in 2013 on the grounds that the formula to determine discriminatory behavior was outdated. Writing as part of the court's majority, Chief Justice John Roberts said "things have changed dramatically" and urged Congress to provide an enforcement mechanism that could pass court muster.

Instead of doing its job, Congress gridlocked. Many states, including Texas, passed stricter voting laws and procedures that they said would prevent voter fraud. But while there is no evidence of widespread voter

fraud, there is ample evidence that some new voting rules made voting more difficult.

The Leadership Conference Education Fund, a civil rights group, found that 750 polling places had been closed statewide in Texas since 2012, negatively impacting access and often having a larger impact in minority communities. In some communities voters could cast their ballots in a matter of minutes while voters in other communities had to stand in line for hours. The validity of absentee and mail-in ballots also became flash points in many states, even in states that had used them for years without a problem. And Republicans in Austin this legislative session have filed about a dozen bills to address perceptions of voting fraud and other misconduct.

Without a doubt, it is possible to have secure elections without limiting voting options and access. But the line that keeps voting security from becoming voter suppression must not be crossed.

Congress could go a long way to fixing the problems here. Lawmakers must pass a new voting rights measure with meaningful provisions to deter state legislatures from making changes to voting procedures that could impede voting rights. As we've written before, several changes could protect voting rights, and address concerns about security and fraud with-

out disenfranchising voters.

First, an overhaul of the Voting Rights Act should include a federal provision removing signature matching as a legal means of verifying voter identity. A signature is too subjective and there are much more reliable mechanisms for verifying identity.

Second, the federal government should fund a Postal Service program to provide ballot delivery for free via certified mail. A date-stamped receipt could be part of the process so voters know their ballot was received, and when.

Third, a national voter registry managed by the nonpartisan Federal Election Commission could be used as a safeguard. States would still maintain their own voter rolls and conduct their own elections, but would be required to share those records with the FEC to detect instances of double voting. Death records also should be made available to the FEC so that deceased voters can be removed from the rolls.

Fourth, the Congress should reconsider a return to preclearance or a streamlined remedy to review potentially discriminatory changes in election procedures before they take effect. In the Shelby decision, the Supreme Court did not rule out the possibility of preclearance as a provision to protect voting rights. The court only suggested that Congress should legislate a new formula or

mechanism that more accurately reflects recent patterns of discrimination.

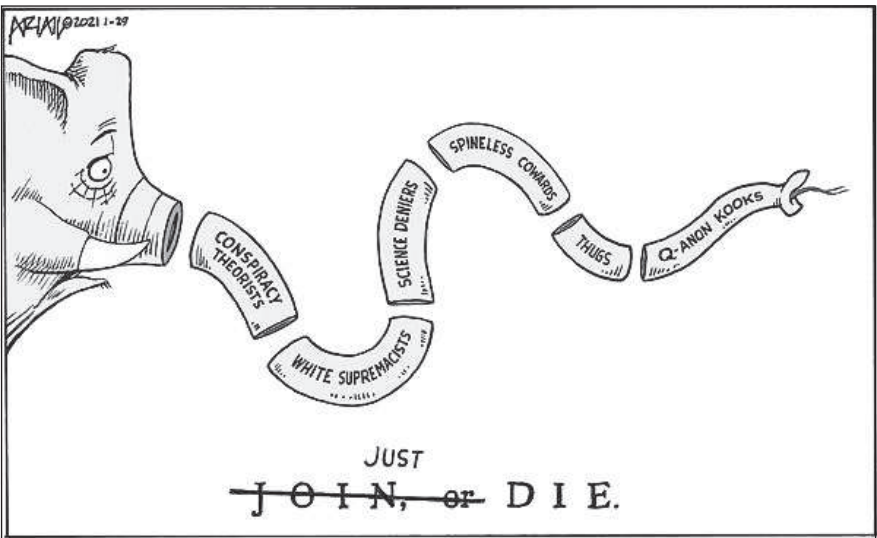
About 160 million Americans voted in the 2020 elections – a historic turnout and impressive expression of civic engagement during an election cycle complicated by the coronavirus pandemic, economic turmoil and political discord.

An improved Voting Rights Act must encourage participation and discourage states and local governments from erecting barriers that can be abused to disenfranchise voters or simply make it harder for people to exercise their constitutional right to vote.

It is clear to us that Congress passed the original Voting Rights Act, reauthorized it with overwhelming bipartisan support several times and expanded it in 1975 to include not just racial minorities but "language minorities" to address discrimination that undermines the American ideals that sustain our republic.

Voting is what we do to make sure all citizens have a role in determining the nation's direction, are invested in our future, and are equipped to check the excesses of officials at local, state and federal levels. When we unnecessarily and capriciously block opportunities to vote, we turn back the clock to a time that we should never abide again.

– This editorial was first published in the Dallas Morning News.



# How this recession is unfolding

We approach a full year since the start of the COVID recession. So, it is timely to assess where the recession has turned out differently than seemed likely at the start. Some of the developments are happy, while others are not.

**Michael Hicks**



I begin by noting that employment in Indiana fell throughout 2019. For much of the Midwest, 2019 was effectively a recession year, even if that downturn was masked by the cataclysm of COVID. However, the forces that slowed our economy in 2019 were entirely different from the COVID effects of 2020, and these forces befell a different set of people and businesses.

Most economic forecasts in March and April projected the deep GDP losses in 2nd quarter and rapid recovery in 3rd quarter. I think these forecasts were right enough about the depth and dynamics of the COVID downturn to have been helpful for policymakers and businesses. It appears now that we'll end 2020 with a downturn that ranks in the top five to seven worst years since the 1920s.

At the beginning of the COVID downturn, most economists argued that the effects of the disease were the causal factors in the recession. With more research we might find that long-term government restrictions slowed recovery, accounting for a small fraction of lost jobs and businesses. But, with the emergence of extensive data on the timing of disease, government actions and business revenue, it is now clear that individual responses to COVID caused the downturn. Government 'shutdowns' played no more than a minor role in the depth

or duration of the recession. It was always the pandemic.

The economic projections of a deep downturn were accompanied by several estimates of a sustained fiscal catastrophe affecting state and local governments. For many states and local governments, that is turning out to be the case. Local government has lost a whopping 1 million jobs nationally and schools another million. But, two factors have worked together to mitigate the worst likely effects.

The CARES Act actually boosted personal income in 2nd quarter. Most of this boost in spending appears to have been dedicated to taxable sales, and it was all subject to income taxes. At the same time, household spending shifted more heavily to taxable items, like home improvement products, than most economists expected. While the COVID losses are likely the worst post-war shock to state and local governments, the direct potential outcomes may have been averted.

The most remarkable aspect of the COVID recession is the unequal and hidden impacts on labor markets. Too much of the policy discussion has failed to acknowledge how deeply unequal this recession has been. I think the problem lies in overreliance on anecdotal evidence to judge the world around us. This appears to have allowed too many policymakers to ignore deep problems in the official estimates of unemployment in assessing the state of the economy.

The current unemployment rate understates the real level of job losses. A full explanation is too lengthy for this column, but suffice it to say that job losses have displaced maybe three times the number reported in the official unemployment rate. As of mid-November, more than 600,000 Hoosier workers had hours cut so low that they were eligible

for public benefits. The low information content of the traditional unemployment data means that the seriousness of the labor market disruptions were too easily ignored. But, I think the real problem is that the workers facing the deepest distress are largely invisible. The truth about their plight is startling.

Nationwide, from January to late October, employment in the top third of workers – those who earn more than \$60,000 per year – grew by 1.2 percent. This is slower than normal, but hardly a recession. Among middle-income workers, those who earn \$27,000 to \$60,000, employment declined by 4.0 percent. That is roughly the national experience annually of the Great Recession, in other words, pretty bad. But, among low-wage workers, job losses were at 19 percent. This is matched only by one year of the Great Depression, and it took four years to reach that share of joblessness.

So, for the most affluent American workers, 2020 was a slow growth year. For middle-income workers, it was the worst year in a lifetime. For the poorest third of American workers, 2020 was a catastrophe akin to the darkest days of the Great Depression. The inequality of this downturn is the most shocking effect of this kind I have ever seen in data. This pattern plays out nearly identically across individual states.

Many of these jobs won't return. Even if household spending returns to pre-COVID patterns, the acceleration of automation and productivity changes in services has been large and permanent. The only silver lining for workers is that these jobs are geographically distributed across every community. This means we won't have the concentrated job losses of the 2000s.

Another aspect of the COVID downturn is its risk of

exacerbating already worrisome levels of inequality. Most particularly, the impacts to education appear to be more than a transient inconvenience. Between 5.0 and 7.0 percent of incoming students elected to skip college. Most of these young adults will not continue their education, making the individual and regional impacts of this profoundly damaging.

Within schools, the effects of COVID are likewise unequal. Broadband access is highly uneven, and as many as one-third of kids have real problems with remote learning. And, yes, that is an argument for keeping schools open. But many schools, like the one my son attends, had to shift to online learning because they could not staff the school due to COVID quarantine and isolation.

The effects of this are already obvious in the data. There are a few sources for student learning in online math classes last year. By the end of the year, when final tests were given, students from families in the top one-third of income made steady progress, with growth of 37 percent. Middle-income students had almost no measurable change, while low-income students saw their progress down 11 percent. This worsened over the fall, with low-income kids seeing a 13.7 percent drop. These effects on students will continue to affect individual and economic performance for a half century.

Doubtless there are many unknown challenges awaiting Congress and state governments as they consider how to deal with the remainder of this downturn. One emerging certainty is that dealing with the unequal effects of labor market and educational experiences need to be a top priority.

Michael Hicks may be reached by email at cberdirector@bsu.edu.

# Legislative hypocrisy – again

By **DR. TONY LUX**

The Governor's Commission on Teacher Salaries recently showed Hoosiers how woefully inadequate Indiana teacher salaries are. Indiana has the largest decline in teacher pay for any state in the nation since 2000. Per-pupil spending is the lowest in the Midwest and 38th in the nation.

As Indiana begins the 2021 Indiana General Assembly session where the two-year state budget will be created, the Governor and leaders for the Republican supermajorities in the House and Senate have stated their commitment to maintaining public school funding and said they want to see increases in teacher salaries. These are good intentions for public education.

At the same time, Republican leaders are gearing up to divert even more state funds away from public schools by expanding the private school voucher program to remove all financial restrictions for families to qualify for a voucher.

Vouchers cost Indiana \$172.8 million in 2019-2020, depriving every Indiana public school system of \$172 per student. If your local public school district serves 6,000 students, it's losing more than \$1 million a year.

More than 36,000 private and religious school students received vouchers in 2018-2019, but nearly 41,000 students attending the same private and religious schools do not currently use a voucher. If the income requirements are removed, the number of students already in these schools qualifying for vouchers could more than double. The additional cost for taxpayers would be enormous. Imagine the voucher expense doubling to \$345.6 million annually.

All taxpayers, including low-income taxpayers, would be paying the tuition bill for wealthy families with students already in private schools.

There is no other way to interpret this; it diverts state dollars from the poorest and neediest of public school students to give to the wealthiest. If the state education budget doubles its voucher expense, how can it possibly increase teacher salaries?

Every public school family and business-conscious citizen should protest and discourage legislators from diverting scarce and needed public education funding to expand voucher eligibility.

Dr. Tony Lux, of Crown Point, is a retired public school superintendent and a board member of the Indiana Coalition for Public Education.



VACCINE

From page A1

second-dose appointments have been scheduled.

The new age category means they will join health-care workers, long-term care residents and first responders in being eligible to receive the vaccine.

Locally, appointments may be made for Wabash County Museum site. Meanwhile, Parkview Health will continue to host a vaccine clinic at the Parkview Mirro Center for Research and Innovation, 10622 Parkview Plaza Drive, Fort Wayne, said public relations manager Tami Brigle on Monday. As a reminder, those eligible for vaccination must register for an appointment in advance. Walk-ins are not accepted.

“At this time, appointments at the Parkview Mirro Center are available beginning several weeks from today,” said Brigle. “To ensure the vaccine is not wasted, Parkview has a process in place to use all available doses of the vaccine each day. There is not a wait list for cancellations.”

Brigle said on Tuesday the ISDH “manages our vaccine allocation and shipment.”

“It would be best if you reach out to them for information on how they are handling the state’s supply of vaccine,” said Brigle.

On Tuesday, media relations coordinator ISDH Megan Wade-Taxter said they had previously announced they would “expand age groups as vaccine supplies permit.”

Also, Wade-Taxter said they had received about 13,000 additional doses a week from the federal government. This was a major change from recent weeks, when governors around the country learned the expected federal stockpile of vaccines was depleted.

“Vaccine supply remains limited nationally. Indiana has adopted an age-based approach to expanding vaccine eligibility to fulfill its goals of reducing hospitalizations, saving lives and protecting vulnerable populations,” said Wade-Taxter.

Wade-Taxter said Hoosiers age 60 and older comprise 22.5 percent of the population but account for 64.1 percent of hospitalizations and 93.3 percent of COVID-19 deaths.

“The vaccine requires two doses to obtain full immunity. Appointments for the second dose will be made at the clinic when the first dose is administered,” said Wade-Taxter. “Vaccine clinics are widely available across the state. Hoosiers who cannot find an appointment at the nearest location are encouraged to look at other sites in neighboring counties. Appointments are being added regularly as vaccine supplies permit.”

The vaccine is available at no cost. Hoosiers who do not have access to a computer or cell phone or who need assistance with registration also can call 211 or contact one of Indiana’s Area Agencies on Aging for assistance. A caregiver or loved one may make an appointment on behalf of an eligible senior.

Wabash County residents may sign up by visiting <https://ourshot.in.gov> or calling 211. Those interested in taking part in the local waiting list may email [info@city-ofwabash.com](mailto:info@city-ofwabash.com).

For more information on volunteering at the local clinic, call 260-569-2217 or email [marilyn.custer-mitchell@parkview.com](mailto:marilyn.custer-mitchell@parkview.com).

Long-term care facilities

The ISDH’s long-term care facilities dashboard was updated at noon Wednesday, Jan. 27 with results as of Wednesday, Jan. 20. New positive cases and deaths have occurred over a range of dates but were reported to the ISDH seven days before the last dashboard update.

In Wabash County, only Bickford of Wabash reported no cases.

Otherwise, during the latest update, in Wabash County:

■ Timbercrest Senior Living Community in North Manchester reported nine total resident positive cases, fewer than five total resident deaths and 46 staff positive cases.

■ Peabody Retirement Community in North Manchester reported fewer than five new resident positive cases, 54 total resident posi-

tive cases, nine total resident deaths and 123 staff positive cases.

■ Wellbrooke of Wabash reported 29 total resident positive cases, 10 total resident deaths and 23 staff positive cases.

■ Autumn Ridge Rehabilitation Centre reported 19 total positive cases, fewer than five total resident deaths and 14 staff positive cases.

■ Vernon Health and Rehabilitation reported 36 total resident positive cases, fewer than five total resident deaths and 27 staff positive cases.

■ Rolling Meadows Health Care Centre in LaFontaine reported 56 total resident positive cases, 13 total resident deaths and 15 staff positive cases.

■ Miller’s Merry Manor – Wabash East reported 23 new resident positive cases, fewer than five new resident deaths, 49 total resident positive cases, five total resident deaths and 31 staff positive cases.

■ Miller’s Merry Manor – Wabash West reported fewer than five new resident positive cases, fewer than five total resident positive cases and 13 staff positive cases.

School figures

The ISDH’s school dashboard was updated Monday, Feb. 1 with data as of 11:59 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29. The dashboard is updated weekly at noon Mondays.

Statewide, 161 schools reported no cases, 1,917 reported one or more case and 290 have not reported.

In Wabash County, only White’s Jr./Sr. High School has reported to the ISDH that they have no cases.

During the latest update, Wabash County schools with one or more confirmed cases included:

■ Manchester Jr./Sr. High School (MHS) reported fewer than five new student positive cases, fewer than five new teacher positive cases, 50 total student positive cases, 11 total teacher positive cases and nine total staff positive cases.

■ Manchester Elementary School (MES) reported fewer than five new staff positive cases, six total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ Manchester Intermediate School (MIS) reported eight total student positive cases.

■ Metro North Elementary School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases.

■ Heartland Career Center reported fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ Sharp Creek Elementary School reported fewer than five new student positive cases, six total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ Northfield Jr./Sr. High School (NHS) reported 38 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and eight total staff positive cases.

■ O.J. Neighbours Elementary School reported fewer than five new student positive cases, fewer than five new staff positive cases, eight total student positive cases, 10 total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ Wabash Middle School reported 11 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ Wabash High School reported 14 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ St. Bernard Elementary School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases and total teacher positive cases.

■ Southwood Jr./Sr. High School (SHS) reported 16 total student positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ Southwood Elementary School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases.

Since Jan. 18, the individually reported MCS cases include one positive COVID-19 case at MHS, with one person quarantined on Jan. 24; three positive COVID-19 cases at

MHS, with 21 people quarantined on Jan. 25; one positive COVID-19 case on Jan. 27, with two people quarantined; and one positive COVID-19 case at MHS, with three people quarantined.

Schools of higher learning are not listed on the ISDH schools dashboard. However, Manchester University maintains its own, separate dashboard. On-campus COVID-19 testing began again the week of Jan. 4. Updates to this dashboard will be made each Friday to reflect the current week of testing and the semester to date. As of Friday, Jan. 29, a total of 137 tests have been performed this week, with all of them being negative. There have been 449 total tests performed this semester, with all of those being negative, as well. There has been one self-reported case on the North Manchester campus, and no self-reported cases on the Fort Wayne campus.

Local figures

■ On Wednesday, the ISDH reported 20 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 3,089, with 13,311 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 6.9 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 19.3 percent.

■ On Thursday, the ISDH reported 11 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 3,099, with 13,344 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 7 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 19.2 percent.

■ On Friday, the ISDH reported 11 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 3,110, with 13,381 tests.

■ On Saturday, the ISDH reported 12 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 3,122, with 13,420 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 6.9 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 20.6 percent.

■ On Sunday, the ISDH reported five new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 3,126, with 13,536 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 6.9 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 20.9 percent.

■ On Monday, the ISDH reported five new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 3,131, with 13,472 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 6.4 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 19.3 percent.

■ On Tuesday, the ISDH reported six new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 3,137, with 13,484 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 5.9 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 17.9 percent.

Statewide figures

On Friday, the ISDH announced that 1,567 additional Hoosiers have been diagnosed with COVID-19 through testing at state and private laboratories. That brings to 629,903 the number of Indiana residents now known to have had the novel coronavirus following corrections to the previous day’s dashboard.

A total of 9,677 Hoosiers are confirmed to have died from COVID-19, an increase of 65 from the previous day. Another 377 probable deaths have been reported based on clinical diagnoses in patients for whom no positive test is on record. Deaths are reported based on when data are received by the state and occurred over multiple days.

To date, 2,968,591 unique individuals have been tested in Indiana, up from 2,963,581 on Monday. A total of 7,067,175 tests, including repeat tests for unique individuals, have been reported to the state Department of Health since Feb. 26, 2020.

To find testing sites around the state, visit [www.coronavirus.in.gov](http://www.coronavirus.in.gov) and click on the COVID-19 testing information link.

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplainedealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplainedealer.com).*

The four chaplains

By DAVE SNOWDON

“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” – John 15:13 (ESV)

Wednesday, Feb. 3 marks the 78th anniversary of the sinking of the U.S.S. Dorchester in the Atlantic Ocean by a German U-Boat.

The Dorchester was an ocean liner designed for 314 civilian passengers that had been re-fitted to be a troop carrier, ferrying 904 U.S. soldiers and crew to the war front in Europe.

The Dorchester was a small ship at 368 feet long, a little over two-fifths the length of the R.M.S. Titanic, which was 882 feet, and about one-tenth of the weight of the Titanic, measuring 5649 tons vs. 52,310 tons.

Assigned to the Dorchester were four newly appointed Army Chaplains to accompany the troops to the front. Lt. George Fox, a Methodist; Lt. Alexander Goode, a Rabbi; Lt. Clark Poling, a Reformed; and Lt. Patrick Washington, a Catholic priest.

Early on Feb. 2, 1943, a German U-Boat was spotted and the crew and soldiers

were ordered to remain fully clothed and wear their life vests at all times in a state of emergency. But below decks with steam boilers and overcrowded conditions, many men many of the men ignored the order and stripped down to their skivvies.

At 12:45 a.m. on Feb. 3, 1943, the German submarine U-233 sent a torpedo mid-ship of the Dorchester knocking out her electrical system and power.

The soldiers were trapped below decks and many were wounded or killed by the blast.

It was pitch black and panic set in.

The Chaplains sought to calm the men and organize an orderly evacuation of the ship, guiding the men to safety. The supply of life jackets ran out and the Chaplains gave their life jackets away. They helped as many men as they could into the lifeboats. Then they linked arms and saying prayers for the men and singing hymns they went down with the ship. A survivor said as he swam away from the ship he looked back. Flares had lighted up the sky and he saw the chaplains on

the bow linked arm and arm praying and singing. The bow lifted up and silently slid under the water. He never saw the chaplains again.

Only 230 of the 904 service members and crew were saved. The heroic actions of the four chaplains saved the lives of many. The impact of their story was and is deeply moving. Each of the chaplains was awarded posthumously the Distinguished Service Cross, Purple Heart and a special medal of honor awarded by Congress, equivalent to the Medal of Honor.

The story of the four chaplains encourages us in the hope of America and a great challenge to us all to unite together in love and support for our country and our fellow mankind.

“No greater love ...”  
*Dave Snowden and his wife recently moved to the Wabash community to be near six of their 11 grandchildren and their parents. The couple has three adult children and 11 grandchildren. He is a retired Navy Chaplain and veteran of Vietnam and Iraqi Freedom. He also retired from the Christian & Missionary Alliance and Senior Adult Health Care in Friendship Village in Dayton, Ohio.*

DKG Alpha Zeta Chapter held Nov. meeting

Local group is made up of members in Grant, Huntington, Wabash and Whitley counties

STAFF REPORT

The Alpha Zeta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (DKG) gathered at 9 a.m. Nov. 14, 2020 for a virtual meeting that was opened by President Sue Corbin.

A Thanksgiving-themed opening thought and prayer were read by Ann Ambler to 18 participants.

Delta Kappa Gamma is an education society of key women educators. Alpha Zeta Chapter is made up of members who work or live in Grant, Huntington, Wabash and Whitley counties.

The chapter secretary’s and treasurer’s reports were approved.

Old views from new administration

“(W)e will never again sow division. Scripture tells us to envision that everyone shall sit under their own vine and

Kathryn Lopez



fig tree and no one shall make them afraid.” That’s from Amanda Gorman’s poem, “The Hill We Climb,” which she read at the recent

inauguration.

The sentiment was consistent with President Biden’s own words to those who did not support him: “Hear me out as we move forward. Take a measure of me and my heart.”

Unfortunately, it didn’t take even until the end of the week for Joe Biden to get cracking on some divisive priorities. The statement he and Vice President Kamala Harris released for the 48th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal in all three trimesters of pregnancy, was the most vehement from a Democratic administration yet.

After asserting that “reproductive health ... has been under relentless and extreme attack,” they say that the administration is “deeply committed to making sure everyone has access to ... reproductive health care.” It continues: “The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to codifying Roe v. Wade and appointing judges that respect foundational precedents like Roe. ... now is the time to rededicate ourselves to ensuring that all individuals have access to the health care they need.”

One of the problems here, of course, that abortion isn’t mere health care. It’s the ending of a life. It’s the severing of the most precious bond there is, the one between mother and child.

Can we step away from

politics for a moment and consider how we can serve women, children and families better? Not simply as a federal government, but as individuals, families and communities?

The Biden administration’s statement was not a surprise, of course, to those of us who oppose abortion. But if the president’s inaugural words were heartfelt, he wouldn’t have been so callous to the Americans who could not in good conscience vote for him because of his position on abortion.

Many Americans who describe themselves as pro-choice simply want to know that a woman in a difficult position has choices. And they should. It’s quite common for married couples to struggle with infertility. So many of them would love to welcome a child into their home. Why are we killing babies when babies are wanted? And why are there ads for surrogates – which can be so tempting for a woman who is struggling financially – when there are children languishing in the foster-care system?

It was only hours after the Roe statement from the new White House administration that Amanda Gorman’s online video insisting Roe remain “alive” hit. Speaking about

The current chapter project is to donate money to the food banks in the four counties. Members discussed correspondence that was shared and reports were given from several committees. The Finance report noted that the budget will be voted on in January. The Membership report included an invitation to members and prospective members to attend meetings via Zoom. The Professional Affairs Committee reminded members that three grants-in-aid will be given to college students in March and scholarships are available to fund members’ projects, with applications being needed. The Personal Growth and Music committees also participated in the reports.

In unfinished business, Judy Kehmeyer is available to help anyone get started on the project of adding to the Virtual Library. Roxanne Thomas noted that she has enjoyed her experience of recording children’s books for the library. Members are requested to check the Indiana state organization newsletter, The Hoosier Newsette, for more information about the Virtual Library project.

The program for this meeting was the honoring of chapter members by recognizing their years of membership via a PowerPoint presentation. It was noted that Kathaleen Reese has been a member for 63 years, “quite an accomplishment.” Members celebrating a milestone anniversary will be presented with a rose and certificate at a later date.

The meeting closed with the singing of the DKG song and adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

The next Alpha Zeta meeting was at 9 a.m. Jan. 16, 2021. The program was on Coding, presented by Whitley County teacher Megan DeVito.

Kolb was the member attending from Wabash County.

efforts to put restrictions on abortion, the poet said: “If the sexes and all people are to be equal, abortion has to be actually accessible, not just technically legal. This fight is about fundamental civil rights ... it’s about every single one of us.” Except the unborn babies, I should add. Also, how much do we truly care about women if the best we can offer them is an end to their pregnancy?

There are Democrats – Biden has even said privately he’s among them – who are pro-life. It’s hard to get anywhere in the party, though, if you are pro-life in public as well as in private – just ask former Rep. Dan Lipinski, who was primaried because of his courageous pro-life position. The party would be wise to try to work with such people instead of ostracizing them.

In her poem, Gorman said: “The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light, if only we’re brave enough to see it. If only we’re brave enough to be it.” It would make some radiant light if we’d come together – pro-life and pro-choice – and take a second look at abortion in America.

*Kathryn Jean Lopez can be contacted at [klopez@nationalreview.com](mailto:klopez@nationalreview.com).*

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Photo by Alina Reed / Plain Dealer

Southwood sophomore Cole Winer shoots for three points.

## Bluffton overpowers Manchester in women’s basketball Friday

The Black and Gold finished 22-51 from the floor

By DILLON BENDER

The visiting Bluffton Beavers overpowered the Manchester Spartans in women’s basketball action on Friday night in Stauffer-Wolfe Arena. Spear-headed by 41 points from Brianna Gillig, the Beavers outscored the Spartans 23-12 in the final period en route to an 85-68 victory. Gillig finished 15-25 from the field, 2-4 from three-point territory, and finished 9-10 at the free-throw line to lead the Beavers. She added 10 boards. Emma Saltzman added 12 points and seven rebounds

for Bluffton, while Maddie Fitzpatrick scored 11 points. The Beavers shot 32-61 (52.5 percent) from the floor for the game. Manchester was led by Tiara Jackson, from East Chicago and Central High School, who had 18 points and six rebounds. Jackson shot 9-13 on Friday. Abby Walker, from Oswego, Illinois, and Cloverdale High School, tallied 11 points off the bench. Macy Miller, from Huntertown and Carroll High School, also reached double figures in scoring with 10. The Black and Gold finished 22-51 (43.1 percent) from the floor. Saturday’s rematch at Bluffton began at 1 p.m. *Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*

## Manchester women’s hoops falls at Bluffton

Spartans are next scheduled to play at Defiance College on Friday, Feb. 5

By DILLON BENDER

The host Bluffton University Beavers completed the weekend sweep of the Manchester University women’s basketball team following a 78-60 win in Ohio on Saturday, Jan. 30. Bluffton shot 50 percent (30-60) from the floor and buried 10 triples in Saturday’s game. Sammy Shardo led BU with 19 points and five here-pointers. Emma Saltzman scored 17 points while Nora Hemminger added 10 points. Brianna Gillig, who scored 41 points last night, was held to just six points this afternoon. Manchester was limited to 37.7 percent (23-61) shoot-

ing on Saturday. The Black and Gold were also limited to 37.5 percent (6-16) shooting from downtown. Macy Miller, from Huntertown and Carroll High School, led Manchester with 15 points and nine rebounds. Miranda Bieghler, from Plainfield and South Putnam High School, added 14 points on 6-8 shooting. Bieghler also grabbed six boards. Hannah Lindsey, from Speedway, also reached double figures in scoring with 10 points. Manchester is scheduled to play at Defiance College on Friday, Feb. 5, beginning at 5 p.m. *Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*

## Manchester volleyball swept by Hanover

Spartans hosted the Grizzlies on Tuesday

By DILLON BENDER

The visiting Hanover Panthers swept the Manchester University volleyball team in a doubleheader in Stauffer-Wolfe Arena on Saturday, Jan. 30. The Panthers took both matches in straight sets. Match 1: Hanover won 3-0, 25-14, 25-20, 25-11. Match 2: Hanover won 3-0, 25-20, 25-14, 25-20. Hanover’s Emma Rolf served up eight aces in the first match on Saturday afternoon. She added 12 kills on the afternoon.

Kelsey Ketcham led HC with 31 assists on the day. Freshman Joy Maze, from Greenwood and Greenwood Community High School, led MU with 13 kills and 14 digs across Saturday’s matches. Samantha Campbell, from Brownsburg, had three solo blocks and three block assists on the day. She added 11 total kills. Manchester hosted the Franklin College Grizzlies in Stauffer-Wolfe Arena on Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 6 p.m. Hanover hosted Transylvania University on Tuesday, Feb. 6. *Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*

# Knights knock out North Miami

Southwood will face Rochester High School at 5 p.m. on Feb. 4

By ALINA REED

Wabash Plain Dealer Freelance Reporter

On Friday, Jan. 29, the Southwood Knights boys basketball teams hosted North Miami in a TRC match-up. The varsity teams brought the heat during this contest. Southwood sophomore Cole Winer was first to score for the night. Senior Carson Rich, the team’s top scorer, was out on injury. The boys were focusing on finding a new rhythm that would score them the most points possible. Throughout the half, the Knights experienced weak defense resulting in North Mi-

ami scoring. Thankfully Southwood was able to finish the half at 31-19. During the second half, Southwood clapped back and brought a strong defense onto the court. This left North Miami in the dust. Winer racked in a decent amount of points for the Knights. He was able to accomplish a career record of 24 points within this game. “Our strength tonight was our speed,” said Winer. “We were successful in scoring when we were able to push fast off rebounds. My teammates put me in the best position possible to score and that helped me with getting a lot of good shots in.” Southwood was able to bring home a win while keeping double the points of their opponent. The final score finished at 64-32. Top scoring for Southwood was Winer with 24 points, senior Connor

Rich with 14 points, sophomore Jason Oprisek with nine points and senior Alex Farr with six points. “Winning this game was a positive for us,” said Farr. “We are now sitting at .500 in the conference and are looking towards having a winning conference record. North Miami is also a section opponent so we will be ready for them in the future.” The junior varsity and freshman teams blew North Miami out of the park taking home more wins for the night. The junior varsity boys finished 58-18 and the freshman team finished 48-9. The Knights freshman, junior varsity and varsity teams will be traveling to Rochester High School at 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4. *Alina Reed, Wabash Plain Dealer freelance reporter, may be reached by email at sports@wabashplaindealer.com.*

## Bluffton holds off Manchester boys on Friday night

Spartans were limited to 7-24 shooting from three-point territory

By DILLON BENDER

The visiting Manchester University Spartans men’s basketball team was able to cut Bluffton’s lead to just four points with five minutes left in regulation, however, the Beavers were able to stave off MU’s comeback en route to a 76-66 win in Ohio on Friday night. Manchester led for a majority of the opening half until an 11-3 run by Bluffton pushed the host Beavers to a narrow 32-28 advantage at the intermission. Following halftime, Bluffton maintained a steady double-digit advantage.

The Spartans were able to claw back into Friday’s contest, trimming Bluffton’s lead to just four points, 59-55, at the 4:53 mark of the second half. As the game tightened, the Beavers responded with a quick 10-2 run to seal the game. For the game, Bluffton shot 29-62 (46.8 percent) from the field. BU knocked down 10 three-pointers, finishing with a 45.5 shooting percentage from downtown. Manchester shot 26-61 (42.6 percent) on Friday night. The Spartans were limited to 7-24 shooting

from three-point territory, good for 29.2 percent. Senior forward CJ Hampton, from Hammond and Griffith High School, led MU with 23 points. Cortiz Buckner, from Lafayette and Lafayette Jefferson High School, added 15 points. Freshman Aidan Jahraus, from Altamont, Illinois, and Altamont Community High School, scored 13 points and made a trio of threes in his first collegiate start. Jameel Cosby led Bluffton with 21 points. Saturday’s rematch between these two schools was played again at Bluffton University in Ohio at 3 p.m. *Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*

## Bluffton edges Manchester men

The Spartans are scheduled to travel to Defiance College on Friday, Feb. 5

By DILLON BENDER

The host Bluffton Beavers narrowly completed the weep of the Manchester University men’s basketball team following a 59-54 victory in Ohio on Saturday, Jan. 30. Both Matt Westman, from Michigan City, and Mitch Mendenhall, from New Haven and Woodlan High School, led the Spartans with 12 points apiece off the bench. Cortiz Buckner, from Lafayette and Lafayette Jefferson High School, added 10 points, six rebounds, and three assists on Saturday. CJ Hampton, from Hammond and Griffith High School, posted team-highs of 11 rebounds and five steals.

Spartans were limited to 33 percent (19-57) shooting from the floor and just 21.7 percent (5-23) shooting from the perimeter. Both Matt Westman, from Michigan City, and Mitch Mendenhall, from New Haven and Woodlan High School, led the Spartans with 12 points apiece off the bench. Cortiz Buckner, from Lafayette and Lafayette Jefferson High School, added 10 points, six rebounds, and three assists on Saturday. CJ Hampton, from Hammond and Griffith High School, posted team-highs of 11 rebounds and five steals.

Bluffton finished Saturday’s game shooting 41.5 percent (22-53) from the field. The Beavers went 6-18 (33 percent) from downtown. Aaron Rich led Bluffton with a double-double of 14 points and 12 rebounds. Dezman Brown added 12 points. Mike Ketner led all bench scorers in Saturday’s game with 13 points. Manchester is scheduled to travel to Defiance College on Friday, Feb. 5, for a 7 p.m. meeting with the Yellow Jackets. *Dillon Bender is sports information director at Manchester University.*

## MLBPA reject league’s season delay

By RONALD BLUM

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball will proceed with an on-time start to spring training and the season after players rejected a plan Monday night to delay reporting by a more than a month. “In light of the MLBPA’s rejection of our proposal, and their refusal to counter our revised offer this afternoon, we are moving forward and instructing our clubs to report for an on-time start to spring training and the championship season, subject to reaching an agreement on health and safety protocols,” MLB said in a statement. “We were able to complete a 2020 season through Herculean efforts and sacrifices made by our players, club staff and MLB staff to protect one another,” MLB said. “We will do so again, together, as we work towards playing another safe and entertaining season in 2021.” MLB proposed to the players’ association on Friday that the start of spring training be pushed back from Feb. 17 to March 22, that opening day be delayed from April 1 to April 28 and

that each team’s schedule be cut from 162 games to 154. MLB believed the virus situation would improve during the month delay. Under the proposal, each team would have been allowed to be scheduled up to 12 split doubleheaders. Experimental rules for seven-inning doubleheaders and beginning extra innings with a runner on second base would have continued for a second season. As part of the offer, MLB included the expansion of the playoffs from 10 teams to 14 and extending the designated hitter to the National League for the second straight season, a plan the union rejected Jan. 6. Bruce Meyer, the union’s director of collective bargaining, called deputy commissioner Dan Halem on Monday to inform him the proposal had been rejected, two people familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because that detail was not announced. Halem then asked Meyer to make a counteroffer, and Meyer sent an email asking MLB to guarantee salary and service time in the event of an interruption, one of the

people said. MLB’s proposal Friday included expanded rights for Commissioner Rob Manfred to interrupt the season. Halem responded to Meyer on Monday and said MLB would agree to withdraw that part of the proposal but that each side would retain whatever rights it has under the labor and player contracts, the person said. Meyer responded Monday night that the union will not make any more proposals, that the union did not believe MLB’s plan was designed to protect health and safety, and that players expect MLB to tell teams that it intends to start spring training and the season on time, the person said. “The MLBPA executive board and player leadership reviewed and discussed the owners’ proposal throughout the weekend and today,” the union said then in its public statement. “The clear-cut result of these deliberations is that players will not accept MLB’s proposal, will instead continue preparations for an on-time start to the 2021 season, and will accept MLB’s commitment to again direct its clubs to prepare for an on-time start.”

### SCOREBOARD

#### HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

##### Indiana High School Basketball Poll

CLASS 4A	W-L	Pts	Prv
1. Homestead (13)	18-0	260	1
2. Lawrence North	16-1	232	2
3. Indpls Cathedral	14-1	206	3
4. Carmel	15-1	186	4
5. Lafayette Jeff	15-1	137	7
6. S. Bend Adams	15-1	123	5
7. Plainfield	13-1	116	8
8. Warren Central	12-5	90	10
9. Indianapolis Attucks	14-4	83	6
10. Ev. Reitz	11-1	41	9
Others receiving votes: Zionsville 14, Westfield 13, Chesterton 13, Crown Point 13, Gary West 8, Bloomington South 7, Brownsburg 6, Carroll (Allen) 6, Bloomington North 6.			

CLASS 3A	W-L	Pts	Prv
1. Hammond (9)	12-1	244	1
2. Ev. Bosse (4)	13-0	242	2
3. Heritage Hills	12-1	194	4
4. Silver Creek	11-4	162	3
5. Mishawaka Marian	12-2	148	7
6. Leo	13-1	147	5
7. Greensburg	12-2	115	8
8. SB St. Joseph	10-3	84	6
9. Danville	10-2	82	T9
10. Sullivan	12-2	66	T9
Others receiving votes: Guerin Catholic 63, Peru 7, Connersville 6.			

CLASS 2A	W-L	Pts	Prv
1. Ft. Wayne Blackhawk (13)	14-1	260	1
2. Sherandoah	14-3	230	2
3. S. Spencer	11-2	184	4
4. Linton-Stockton	14-3	150	3
5. Central Noble	15-1	145	6
6. Parke Heritage	15-3	128	5
7. Indpls Covenant Christian	13-2	122	8
8. S. Ripley	13-1	103	9
9. Blackford	11-4	78	7
10. Westview	11-3	61	10
Others receiving votes: Madison-Grant 50, Northeastern 26, Churubusca 15, Eastern Hancock 8.			

CLASS 1A	W-L	Pts	Prv
1. Barr-Reeve (13)	15-2	260	1
2. Loogootee	14-3	222	2
3. Kouts	16-2	206	3
4. Bloomfield	10-3	158	5
5. Tindley	11-5	123	8
6. Orleans	12-1	120	10
7. Edinburg	14-4	119	7
8. N. Daviess	12-3	114	4
9. Indpls Lutheran	15-3	88	9
10. Morrisstown	11-4	52	6
Others receiving votes: Jac-Cen-Del 30, Triton 24, Lafayette Catholic 19, Covington 19, Greenwood Christian 6.			

#### COLLEGE BASKETBALL

**The AP Top 25 Men’s Basketball Poll**  
The top 25 teams in The Associated Press’ college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 31, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Gonzaga (61)	17-0	1597	1
2. Baylor (3)	16-0	1539	2
3. Villanova	11-1	1458	3
4. Michigan	13-1	1402	4
5. Houston	15-1	1348	6
6. Texas	11-3	1228	5
7. Ohio St.	14-4	1133	13
8. Iowa	12-4	1079	7
9. Oklahoma	11-4	966	24
10. Alabama	14-4	958	9
11. Tennessee	12-3	869	18
12. Illinois	11-5	850	19
13. Texas Tech	12-5	797	10
14. Virginia	11-3	752	8
15. Creighton	13-4	732	17
16. Virginia Tech	13-3	718	20
17. West Virginia	11-5	669	11
18. Missouri	11-3	589	12
19. Wisconsin	13-5	452	14
20. Florida St.	10-3	393	16
21. UCLA	13-3	260	23
22. Florida	10-4	196	-
23. Kansas	11-6	171	15
24. Purdue	12-6	130	-
25. Drake	16-0	117	-

Others receiving votes: Oklahoma St. 111, Southern Cal 57, Loyola of Chicago 52, Minnesota 42, Xavier 25, Boise St. 23, St. Bonaventure 19, Saint Louis 11, Belmont 11, Toledo 9, Oregon 8, Colorado 8, San Diego St. 6, UConn 5, Louisville 4, North Carolina 3, Georgia Tech 2, Rutgers 1.

**The AP Top 25 Women’s Basketball Poll**  
The top 25 teams in The Associated Press’ women’s college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 31, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Louisville (26)	16-0	746	1
2. South Carolina (4)	14-1	721	4
3. UConn	11-1	648	3
4. NC State	11-1	646	2
5. UCLA	10-2	642	5
6. Stanford	15-2	597	6
7. Texas A&M	16-1	593	8
8. Baylor	12-2	535	9
9. Arizona	11-2	488	10
10. Maryland	12-2	478	7
11. Ohio St.	10-1	462	14
12. Oregon	11-3	412	11
13. Michigan	10-1	388	12
14. South Florida	10-1	340	13
15. Kentucky	13-4	312	15
16. Arkansas	13-6	258	19
17. Indiana	10-4	257	16
18. Tennessee	12-3	221	20
19. Gonzaga	15-2	218	18
20. DePaul	9-4	160	17
21. West Virginia	13-2	144	24
22. Northwestern	9-3	106	23
23. South Dakota St.	13-2	86	25
24. Mississippi St.	8-5	85	21
25. Georgia	13-4	73	22
Others receiving votes: Missouri St. 64, Georgia Tech 25, Syracuse 20, Iowa St. 9, Rice 5, South Dakota 3, Stephen F Austin 3, Texas 2, LSU 2, Virginia Tech 1.			



LITERACY

From page A1

Bogert said they planned to have three children at a time paired with cats, and one with a dog.

“We’ll find one of the calmer dogs,” said Bogert. “Because if you go out there to the dogs a lot of times, depending on the dogs that we have at the time, sometimes the dogs will just bark their heads off because somebody’s there, and this way we’ll get one of the calmer dogs that just moved into the visiting room and it can sit there while the kid reads.”

Bogert said this program is available to all children in Wabash County. Parents may sign up their children via the link the shelter’s Facebook page.

Bogert said the local program will be held on the third Thursday of each month, starting Feb. 18.

Bogert said the time will be split into 30-minute shifts from 4 to 6 p.m., with



Photo by Rob Burgess / Plain Dealer

There is no cost for the program and the parents or guardians will be with the children at all times.

four children scheduled per session.

“We’ll go from there,” said Bogert. “Because we’re so small, we don’t have a lot of room.”

Bogert said there is no cost for the program and the parents or guardians will

be with the children at all times.

“The mission of Literacy for Companionship is to educate and empower children with the skills and confidence necessary to be good readers while helping them understand the importance

of showing animals compassion and empathy,” said Bogert.

For more information, call 260-563-3511.

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.*



LEFT: A kayaker pulls into the shore of Salamonie Lake near the Lost Bridge West area of the reservoir in August of 2020. The Army Corps of Engineers is asking the public to provide comments that they will address in an upcoming master plan to improve the lakes, like harmful algal blooms pictured here. RIGHT: A hiker walks on the Bloodroot Trail at Salamonie Lake during the fall of 2020. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is asking the public to submit comments regarding recreation, maintenance and land use proposals in order to update the outdated plan on record.



By ANDREW MACIEJEWSKI / amaciejewski@h-ponline.com

RESERVOIRS

From page A1

the Corps’ public meeting Wednesday that will help develop a master plan for J.E. Roush, Mississinewa and Salamonie reservoirs. The document will dictate new development, construction and land use changes over the next few decades.

The meeting kicked off a 30-day public comment period that officially ends Feb. 26, where members of the public can submit recommendations, comments and concerns related to the project.

“It’s going to be a guideline for the resources that are there, the recreational resources, the natural resources, the cultural resources and that sort of thing. It will be a tool that we will follow closely because this group of stakeholders will have thought very in depth about the way to have stewardship and sustainability of our resources...” Corps representative Mike Padilla said. “It really dictates how the resources should be managed. We need to get the public involved to do this master plan.”

Padilla said the Corps leases its land to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources but that the Corps issues master plans

periodically that outline the use and management of the lakes. He said they are looking for public input since public recreation is one of the Corps’ missions. “I have no doubt that there are things that you (the public) know that we don’t know which would affect the use of the resources at the facilities, like wildlife management. Are there sensitive species or habitat areas? Should we be doing more to restore habitat in the facility? What are the trends for invasive species? Are there new things coming along, like algal blooms you’ve seen and maybe we haven’t? Cultural resources are a very sensitive thing and we want to make sure we are protecting that,” Padilla said during the meeting. “We can’t protect any of that if we don’t know about them.”

He said J.E. Roush Lake offers boating, camping, fishing, shooting hunting and wildlife viewing, but he said public input could lead to more recreational opportunities, too.

“We are really looking for input into those activities and even potential activities that would better allow us to manage the resources there and better take advantage of the resources there,” he said. “... Recreation is really wide open. We’ve identified quite a few, but there may be other types of

activities that these facilities would be suited for that aren’t being done.”

One person from the public asked the Corps to consider allowing people to use non-motorized gliders that use updrafts created at the lakes since that kind of activity was shut down when drones and other motor-powered flight devices started causing issues with in the past decade.

Corps representatives said the master plan writers will investigate that due to his comment since the original plans date back to the 1960s and ’70s, when drones were not invented yet.

“We are super early in the process,” Corps representative Alex Huxsie said related to all of the public input provided at the meeting, adding that he appreciated all of the feedback, “so we cannot guarantee anything except that we will consider all of these comments that you feel are important.”

Padilla said they would also like input regarding maintenance, signage and public access. He said there might be parts of the park that are underutilized due to lack of parking or places that need upgrades due to high use and limited capacity.

He said the Corps can consider adding amenities and concessions to areas based on use and public demand, and he said the Corps could add interpre-

tive materials to help educate the public, too.

“We are in the scoping phase. We are telling the public and stakeholders that we really need you all to help us scope this out, and we need to get feedback from you,” Padilla said. “We hope that we get lots of input from the public and stakeholders and then we will incorporate that feedback by drafting a master plan. Once we’ve taken all the feedback, we will put that draft out for review again.”

Anyone who wants to submit comments to be considered in the drafting of the master plan have a few ways to provide input before the comment period deadline on Feb. 26.

Anyone wishing to provide input to the plan can write a letter to Hoxsie at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60604, or contact Hoxsie by email at alex.hoxsie@usace.army.mil. A web-based comment submittal tool has been developed for this effort and will be accessible on the Chicago District’s homepage at www.lrc.usace.army.mil under the “public review” heading, according to the Corps.

*Andrew Maciejewski, Chronicle-Tribune editor, may be reached by email at amaciejewski@h-ponline.com.*

PULSE

From page A1

professional workforce.” All branches will resume regularly scheduled business hours at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 4. For more information, visit IN.gov/BMV.

Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distribution every other Wednesday

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester; and 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24 at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15. For more information, visit www.curehunger.org, classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182orhttps://www.give

pulse.com/group/203410.

Grow Wabash County to postpone State of Our Communities event

Grow Wabash County has announced they will postpone the State of Our Communities event, which was formerly slated for Thursday, Feb. 11 at the Eagles Theatre, 106 W. Market St. The new date will be from 7:30 to 10 a.m. Thursday, April 1 at the Eagles Theatre. Registration will open in the coming weeks and further information about tickets and sponsorship opportunities to follow.

Wabash Area Community Theater plans first show of 2021

“Love Letters” by A.R. Gurney will take place from Friday, Feb. 12 to Sunday, Feb. 14, which is Valentine’s

Day weekend. The show will be featured as “Dinnerertainment,” performed in a dinner theater setting in the Big Four Ballroom located in Charley Creek Inn. Dinner theater tickets are \$30 per person with advance purchase required. Show dates will be Friday, Feb. 12 and Saturday, Feb. 13. Doors and cash bar open at 6 p.m. The meal starts at 6:30 p.m. On Sunday, Feb. 14, the doors, cash bar and meal open at 12:30 p.m. For more information, email director Brett Robinson at b.a.robinson@outlook.com.

Employers invited to Manchester University Virtual Career Fair

Those with opportunities for full-time and part-time employment, internships and graduate school are invited to take part in the Manchester University Virtual Career Fair. March 5 is The deadline to register

is March 5, but spots are limited. Organizations can take part free of charge. The virtual career fair is 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 10 on Handshake, an online platform that helps students connect with potential employers. This fair is for undergraduate students from the North Manchester campus. Register by visiting https://link.manchester.edu/careerfair or email CareerDevelopment@manchester.edu.

Salute to Ag Dinner planned for March 10

The 2021 Salute to Ag Dinner will take place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 10 at the Heartland REMC building, 350 Wedcor Ave. Tickets are \$20 each and sponsorship opportunities are available ranging from \$100 to \$2,500. For more information, visit growwabashcounty.com/ag2021 or email marketing@growwabashcounty.

CRASH

From page A1

Road 1100 South.

“For an undetermined reason, the Malibu traveled off the north side of the road and down into a ditch,” said Slocum. “The Malibu flipped, coming to rest on its top.”

Slocum said Byrum was pronounced deceased at the scene.

On Monday, Slocum said there had been no updates in the case as of yet.

Slocum said the crash is still under investigation, but that the “preliminary evidence indicates neither speed nor use of intoxicants was a contributing factor.”

“Byrum was wearing a seat belt, but the crash im-

pact was too severe to prevent her fatal injury,” said Slocum.

On Monday, Slocum said he wasn’t sure which agencies responded to the scene other than ISP.

Also on Monday, Wabash County Sheriff Ryan Baker said his office responded to the scene, but that the ISP is in charge of the investigation at that time.

A request for comment from the Amboy Volunteer Fire Company was not immediately returned as of press time.

This story will be updated as more information becomes available.

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.*

WORKSHOPS

From page A1

Planning NEXT senior planner Kyle May said each community he has worked with on a similar venture has been unique.

“There is no copying and pasting in community planning,” said May.

May said the sessions were “really about opening the door” by presenting existing data and then taking direction about the future from the community.

“We can’t wait and we look forward to being back in person and having these conversations face-to-face,” said May.

May said a county-wide planning process like this was “an uncommon opportunity.”

“Comprehensive planning in the state of Indiana has become more commonplace,” said May.

May said the multi-jurisdictional preparation going on in Wabash County was the “most powerful sort of planning you can do as a community.”

“We’re really excited on your behalf that that’s the path you chose,” said May.

May said the timing of the process was also special because “we get to do this at a very disruptive moment.”

“It’s not just the pandemic,” said May. “This is a really great time to be doing this type of work. That vision is really important for you. Where you want to be five, 10, 15 years down the line.”

May said this process was not just about Wabash or North Manchester, but the county as a whole.

“There’s a lot more that you share than you don’t share,” said May.

May said one of the most pressing concerns for Wabash County was population, which saw a 14 percent decrease from 1980.

“It’s a steady decrease,” said May.

May said if nothing were to change the projection was down to about 26,000 by the year 2050.

“That has the power to affect a lot of things negatively in the community,” said May.

However, May said that though the population was “a primary indicator,” it “doesn’t tell the whole story.”

“The demographics are changing here too,” said May. “These are mega-regional issues.”

For example, May said increasingly, more people that work in the county live outside the county and more people that live in your county work outside the county.

“At the same time we see a decrease in population, we see a rise in home values,” said May. “This is something going on nationally.”

May said Wabash County was seeing slow growth in its fiscal returns. He said that’s a problem because “there’s a significant reliance on income tax.”

May said Wabash County was well-positioned for the future because of a “diversity of places.”

“You’ve got a very diverse community,” said May. “You’ve got cities to towns to rural to natural settings. You’ve reserved and prepared a lot of industrial lands, as well. The dominant land use has to do with residential.”

May said these presented many opportunities for growth.

“You are not starting from scratch. We’re always looking for those unique things about this community. You’ve got a lot of these things. You’ve begun to reach across silos to create partnerships,” said May. “You wanted to do an inclusive process. That’s how you build a strong foundation.”

Planned in-person sessions include:

■ 6 p.m. Monday, March 1 at the Roann Community Center, 105 N. Chippewa St., Roann.

■ 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 2 at the Lagro Town Hall, 230 Buchanan St., Lagro.

■ 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 2 at The Learning Center, 207 N. Wabash Ave., La Fontaine.

■ 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 3 at the Honeywell Center’s Legacy Center, 275 W. Market St.

■ 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, March 4 at the Manchester Community Schools Administration Building Auditorium, 404 W. 9th St., North Manchester.

To register, visit https://imagineone85.org/focus-on-the-future/.

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.*

com or call 260-563-5258.

COVID-19 testing continues at Parkview Wabash

OptumServe will administer free COVID-19 testing from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays at Parkview Wabash Hospital “on an on-going basis.” Testing will take place at 8 John Kissinger Drive in the first-floor conference room of the Medical Office Building (MOB) adjoining Parkview Wabash Hospital. Testing site patrons should not use the MOB entrance or enter through the hospital, but instead, enter and exit through the designated entrance between the two buildings. Signage will mark the appropriate entrance, which is within a few steps of the conference room and testing site.

DivorceCare meets Tuesdays

DivorceCare, a 13-week

DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, features some of the nation’s foremost Christian experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery, according to group leader Janet Quillen. The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Conference Room in the Wabash Friends Counseling Center, 3563 South State Road 13. Wearing a mask is required when entering. Quillen and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St., on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658, email office@wabashfriends.org, call 260-571-5235 or visit www.divorcecare.org.

*Editor’s note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.*